

FILED
JOHN R. ROACH
296TH DISTRICT COURT
COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS
BY: [Signature]

THE STATE OF TEXAS § COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS
§
VS §
§
KARMELO SINCERE ANTHONY § 296TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**AMENDED
ORDER REGULATING TRIAL PROCEEDINGS, MEDIA ACCESS,
SECURITY, AND COURTROOM DECORUM**

On this day, the Court enters this Order to govern all aspects of the trial proceedings in this matter. Due to the significant public and media interest in this case, the Court finds that specific procedures are necessary to ensure the Defendant's right to a fair and impartial trial, the orderly administration of justice, the safety and security of all participants, and reasonable public access consistent with constitutional requirements. The Court has considered the directives set forth in *Waller v. Georgia*, 467 U.S. 39 (1984) and *Sheppard v. Maxwell*, 384 U.S. 333 (1966), as well as all applicable constitutional provisions, statutes, and case law.

The Court finds that this case has generated substantial public and media attention and that unrestricted access or activity may compromise courtroom security, juror privacy, and the Defendant's right to a fair trial. The Court further finds that reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions are necessary and appropriate, and that while the media and public retain the right to attend proceedings, such access is subject to the limitations set forth in this Order.

The courtroom shall open each day of trial at 8:30 a.m. Entry shall be permitted beginning at 8:30 a.m. for members of the media, at 8:40 a.m. for designated family members, and at 8:50 a.m. for members of the general public. No more than nine (9) members of the media shall be permitted in the courtroom at any one time. Seating shall be on a space-available basis. The courtroom doors shall close promptly at 9:00 a.m., and individuals arriving after that time shall not be admitted until a recess. Once admitted into the courtroom, no person shall leave and re-enter during proceedings except during a recess.

The determination of who qualifies as a member of the media, which media representatives will be permitted access to the courtroom, and the allocation of media seating shall be made with the assistance of the Court Appointed Public Information Officer for the Court. Media representatives must comply with all credentialing requirements established by that officer. The Court will not intervene in or resolve disputes among members of the media regarding access or seating. The Court has appointed Steve Stoler as the Appointed Public Information Officer (stevenlstoler@gmail.com, 972-345-1393).

No person, including members of the media, shall photograph, record, or otherwise visually capture the image of any witness, prospective witness, juror or prospective juror, nor shall any person publish or disclose the name, identity, or personal information of any witness who is a minor, juror or prospective juror. No person shall communicate or attempt to communicate with any witness, prospective witness, juror or prospective juror prior to the return of a final verdict. No interviews of witnesses, jurors or prospective jurors shall occur until after the conclusion of the trial and only if voluntarily agreed to by the person.

Photography, video recording, audio recording, live streaming, or any other form of recording or transmission of courtroom proceedings is strictly prohibited. **NO CELL PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WILL BE PERMITTED INTO THE COURTROOM.** Electronic devices may be permitted in the courtroom by the media for note-taking purposes only, subject to approval by the Court, and must remain silent at all times.

No media interviews shall be conducted in the courtroom, in the hallways, or in any security-restricted areas of the courthouse. All interviews must take place only in designated areas approved by the Court and coordinated with the assistance of the Court Appointed Public Information Office. Media activity must not interfere with courthouse operations, security measures, or the orderly conduct of proceedings.

All persons present in the courtroom shall remain silent and respectful at all times. No talking, gestures, facial expressions, emotional outbursts, or other reactions to testimony, rulings, or proceedings shall be permitted. No reading of newspapers, books, or other materials unrelated to the proceedings is allowed. No food, drink, or chewing gum shall be permitted, except as authorized by the Court.

All persons attending the proceedings must be dressed in appropriate business attire. Clothing or items displaying messages, logos, symbols, or images related to the case or that are otherwise distracting or potentially prejudicial are prohibited. Hats/Caps are prohibited. No signs, banners, or demonstrative materials may be brought into or displayed within the courtroom or courthouse.

No member of the public or media shall be permitted beyond the bar separating the gallery from the inner section of the courtroom. That area shall be limited to counsel, parties, court personnel, law enforcement officers involved in the case, witnesses when called, jurors, and other individuals authorized by the Court.

The trial shall be conducted in a secured environment. All persons entering the courthouse shall be subject to security screening, including magnetometers and searches of personal belongings. Additional security measures may be implemented as deemed necessary by the Collin County Sheriff's Office, other court security personnel or the Court. No weapons of any kind shall be permitted within the courthouse.

Members of the public and media shall not congregate in hallways, entryways, or other areas of the courthouse in a manner that disrupts operations, creates security concerns, or interferes with the movement of individuals. All persons must comply with the directions of court staff, security staff, and law enforcement personnel at all times.

Order Prohibiting Extrajudicial Statements or “Gag Order” signed July 28, 2025 will remain in force until the completion of the trial or until further order of the Court (Order is attached for reference). As stated in the order, any violation may result in contempt, fines, attorney discipline, or other remedies as the Court deems appropriate.

Any exhibits admitted during trial shall not be released to the public or media until the conclusion of the trial proceedings.

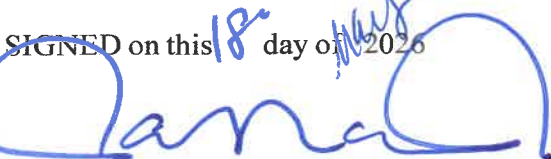
Finally, as reflected on the attached map, the Court has designated certain areas around the exterior of the courthouse as restricted access. These areas (colored in red) will be secured for courthouse operations and security and will not be open for use by the general public or the media. Furthermore, an individual or group shall not assemble or congregate in areas that block ingress/egress of vehicular movement or pedestrian traffic. Any individual or group engaging in speech activities on Collin County premises shall at all times comply with applicable federal, state, county, city or other local laws, statutes, ordinances, regulations or rules, as detailed in the attached map.

Collin County Courthouse located at 2100 Bloomdale Rd, McKinney, Texas shall be under a temporary curfew beginning May 31, 2026. The curfew will be from 11PM – 6 AM every day until further order of the Court. Curfew means the designated time after which access to or movement within the entire Collin County Courthouse campus, including parking lots, sidewalks, green space or any other designated area are restricted from access.

Any violation of this Order may result in immediate removal from the courtroom, courthouse or courthouse grounds and may result in revocation of media credentials or access, and the imposition of sanctions, including contempt of court. No warning is required prior to enforcement of this Order.

The Collin County Sheriff's Office and other designated law enforcement personnel are ORDERED to ensure compliance with this Order at all times during the trial.

This Order may be modified at any time as necessary to ensure the fair and orderly administration of justice.

SIGNED on this 18th day of May 2025


JUDGE PRESIDING
296th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS

COURTHOUSE EXTERIOR OPERATIONS AND ACCESS MAP

Restricted Security Perimeter

- Areas designated for controlled courthouse operations and secure transport/access functions
- Includes:
 - Sally port and inmate transport areas
 - Jury routes and controlled access points
 - Secured building perimeter and operational parking areas
- Not open for general public use
- Access limited to authorized personnel to maintain safety and court operations

Building Access Zone (Public)

- Primary ingress and egress for courthouse operations
- Includes entrances, exit pathways, drop-off areas, and immediate approach corridors
- Must remain clear at all times to allow safe and unobstructed access
- Pedestrian activity is permitted but may not:
 - Block or delay entry or exit from the courthouse
 - Interfere with screening operations or courthouse personnel
 - Impede ADA access routes or accessible pathways
 - Disrupt orderly movement of individuals entering or leaving the facility
- No loitering, assemblies, or activity that impedes access or creates congestion or disruption.
- Interior courthouse areas beyond this point are subject to security screening and courthouse rules. Demonstration activity is not permitted within the building

Active Traffic Areas (Drive Lanes and Primary Routes)

- Includes primary drive lanes, entrances, exits, and vehicle circulation routes
- Pedestrian access limited to ingress and egress only
- Pedestrians may not stand, gather, or remain in any area that interferes with vehicle flow or creates a safety hazard
- Applies to clearly marked lanes and immediate adjacent areas necessary to maintain safe vehicle movement

General Public Areas (No color)

- Lawful presence and demonstration permitted
- Activities must not:
 - Block or impede access to the courthouse, sidewalks, or parking areas
 - Interfere with courthouse operations or law enforcement activity
 - Obstruct traffic flow or pedestrian movement
 - Create safety hazards
- All activity remains subject to applicable laws and reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions



Zone designations are intended to support safety and operational continuity while preserving lawful public access.

THE STATE OF TEXAS	§	COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
VS	§	
	§	
KARMELO SINCERE ANTHONY	§	296 TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**ORDER PROHIBITING EXTRAJUDICIAL STATEMENTS
("GAG ORDER")**

1. PURPOSE & AUTHORITY

The Court finds that extensive pretrial publicity poses a serious risk to the fairness of the trial. Pursuant to the inherent authority of this Court and consistent with the United States and Texas Constitutions the Court **ORDERS** the following:

2. PARTIES SUBJECT TO ORDER

This Order binds the following individuals and entities ("Covered Persons"):

- All parties to this action and their attorneys;
- Witnesses, expert consultants, agents, and spokespersons;
- Law enforcement personnel, courthouse/court staff, and court-appointed officials.

3. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Unless first approved in writing by the Court, no Covered Person shall make any extrajudicial statement that;

- a. Addresses the character, credibility, expected testimony, guilt, or innocence of any party or witness;
- b. Discusses evidence anticipated to be introduced at trial;
- c. Identifies or comments on jurors, jury selection, or deliberations;
- d. Intends or is likely to influence public opinion or potential jurors.

These restrictions apply to statements made via any public medium, including traditional news outlets and social media.

4. PERMITTED COMMUNICATIONS

Allowed communications include:

- a. Procedural announcements (e.g., hearing schedules, court filings);
- b. Statements required by legal or ethical duties (e.g., advising clients of rights).

5. COURT FINDINGS

The Court finds:

- a. Media coverage has the potential to cause imminent and irreparable harm to the defendant's right to a fair trial;
- b. Alternative measures (venue change, juror screening, sequestration) would be inadequate alone;
- c. Narrowly applied speech restrictions are necessary to protect juror impartiality.

6. DURATION

This Order shall remain in force until verdict or until further written order of this Court.

7. SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Any violation may result in contempt, fines, attorney discipline, or other remedies as the Court judges appropriate.

8. NOTICE & CERTIFICATION

Within seven (7) days of this Order, counsel for each party shall serve a copy on all Covered Persons and file a Certificate of Compliance confirming notice.

Filed: July 28, 2025 2:04 PM
Michael Gould
District Clerk
Collin County, Texas
By: Bese, Jaime Deputy



JUDGE JOHN ROACH

7-28-25

July 28, 2025